

## Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 SCEM-02

INT-08 DRC-01 /190 W

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P R 081901Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TORUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5937

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBAS\*Y ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

MEMBASSY DUBLIN 1188

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION USNATO

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: PRESS AND OFFICIAL COMMENT ON ENERGY ACTION GROUP  
PROPOSAL

SUMMARY: SUCH DEVELOPMENTS AS OPEC MEETING IN GENEVA AND  
BILATERAL OIL-SUPPLY DEALS SIGNED OR SHAPING UP BETWEEN ARAB PRO-  
DUCERS AND PARIS, LONDON OR BONN HAVE GENERATED FURTHER ATTENTION  
IN FRENCH PRESS TO ENERGY ACTION GROUP PROPSAL IN LONDON SPEECH.

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IN TURN, THIS HAS PRODUCED COMMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT\*,

WHO SAID IN RADIO INTERVIEW THAT FRANCE COULD ACCEPT IDEA OF "BIG CONSORTIUM OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES" ONLY IF PRODUCER NATIONS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH IT AND CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO SMALL AS WELL AS LARGE CONSUMERS. WHILE PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS ARE INTERPRETING AND SUPPORTING GOF POSITION AS FAVORING "LOYAL, DIRECT COOPERATION" BETWEEN PRODUCER AND CONSUMER STATES, OTHER COMMENTATORS QUESTION GOVERNMENT'S "OBSTINACY" IN ENERGY MATTERS AND -- LIKE RAYMOND

ARON IN FIGARO--FEEL THAT EUROPEAN, AND FRENCH, INTEREST LIES IN DIRECTION OF PARTICIPATING IN "COMMON ORGANIZATION FOR ENERGY" AS PROPOSED BY SECRETARY. END SUMMARY

1. DISCUSSING OIL CRISIS DURING LONG INTERVIEW JANUARY 5 ON RADIO-TELEVISION LUXEMBOURG, JOBERT SAID: "OUR POSITION--AND THIS IS ONE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS--IS TO PARTICIPATE IN A GROUPING OF CONSUMERS, BUT ONE OF SMALL AND LARGE COUNTRIES FRANCE IS A BIG CONSUMER OF OIL. UPPER VOLTA IS NOT A BIG CONSUMER, BUT UPPER VOLTA MUST UNDERGO PRICE INCREASES; AND SINCE IT HAS ONLY ITS HUMAN RESOURCES AS GREAT RESOURCES, IT COULD BE BURDENED. OUR DUTY, I BELIEVE, IS TO THINK OF COUNTRIES LIKE THAT. CONSEQUENTLY, IF WE GO INTO A GENERAL STUDY AND STRATEGY OF SOME SORT OF OIL CONSUMPTION ALL OVER THE WORLD, WE MUST LOOK FURTHER AHEAD. I SAID TO MR. KISSINGER, WHEN I SAW HIM IN BRUSSELS LAST MONTH AND HE SPOKE TO ME ABOUT HIS IDEA OF --LET'S SAY--A BIG CONSORTIUM OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES, I TOLD HIM WE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS KIND OF IDEA IF THE PRODUCERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. MOREOVER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, WHEN HE RECEIVED THE PRESS DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, EMPHASIZED THIS, I THINK, \*IN VERY CLEAR FASHION."

2. COMMENTING ON THIS IN JANUARY 8 EDITION OF PRO-GOVERNMENT FRANCE SOR, GABRIEL FARKAS SAID JOBERT "APPARENTLY FEARS THE CREATION OF A 'CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION DOMINATED BY THE U.S., WITH ALL THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES SUCH AS SITUATION WOULD INVOLVE." FOR THE MOMENT, HE SAID, GOF PREFERS "ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACTS AND NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENTS" WITH OIL-RICH COUNTRIES. THIS "NEW RELATIONSHIP", DECLARED GAULLIST PARTY NEWSPAPER LA NATION, HAS ALREADY BEEN DEFINED BY FRANCE, WHOSE POLICY IS "LOYAL, DIRECT COOPERATION AMONG STATES," A POLICY OF "PEACE AND PROGRESS". THIS UPSETS "CERTAIN HABITS" AMONG "THE MIGHT OF THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORLD," ADDED LA NATION, AMONG WHICH IS THE "BRIDAL AMERICAN HABIT OF INTERVENTION".

3. FINANCIAL LES ECHOS REFLECTED JOBERT'S COMMENTS IN SAYING POMPIDOU "DOES NOT EXCLUDE" FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN A "LARGER FORUM" OF "INTERESTS OF RICH AND WEAK ARE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AND SOLUTIONS ARE NOT IMPOSED". HOWEVER, PAPER REMINDED READERS THAT GOF UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN AIMING AT A

DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARAB PRODUCERS AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

4. BUT RIGHT-OF-CENTR (AND ANTI-ARAB) AURORE FELT DIFFERENTLY. IT QUESTIONED THE RESULTS OF THE GOF'S "OBSTINACY IN ENERGY MATTERS, ITS RELENTLESS QUEST FOR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMER COUNTRIES, ITS REJECTION OF A COMON FRONT -- EUROPEAN OR WORLD WIDE -- RECENTLY PROPOSED BY THE U.S." THE PAPER WONDERED WHETHER ARABS WILL AGREE TO CONTRACTFOR OIL DELIVERIES AT FIXED PRICES AFTER THEIR "TABLE-POUNDING" HAS GIVEN THEM A "TASTEFOR POWER".

5. THIS VIEW WAS CARRIED SOMEWHAT FURTHER BY WIDELY-READ RAYMOND ARON IN FIGARO. "IN CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION", HE WROTE, "THE NINE AND FRANCE IN PATICULAR NEED ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY MORE THAN THE U.S. DOES,IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMON ORGANIZAION FOR ENERGY...WHICH THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE IS PROPOSING TO THEM". ARABS, SAID ARON WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL GRIEVANCS, KNOW BETTER THAN EVER WHERE THE LOCUS OF WEALTH AND POWER IS. HE OFFERED THIS ASSESSMENT: "ALLIES ON SECURITY MATTERS AND RIVALS WHEN  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, CONSORTIUMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 01 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <25 APR 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS AND OFFICIAL COMMENT ON ENERGY ACTION GROUP PROPOSAL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ENRG, FR  
**To:** n/a  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005